

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights on the occasion of the organization's fiftieth year.

In 1960, while the civil rights debate was raging across the country over the extension of Civil Rights to all Americans, Kentucky became the first state south of the Mason-Dixon line to establish a human rights commission.

Since that time, the pioneering members of the Commission have been an ally of all Kentuckians fighting for equality, fairness, and the equal application of justice. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is charged with enforcing State and Federal Civil Rights law. It is also tasked with a powerful mandate, remarkable in its scope and comprehensive in its aims;

"To safeguard all individuals within the state from discrimination because of familial status, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age 40 and over, or because of the person's status as a qualified individual with a disability," reads the mandate. "Thereby to protect their interest in personal dignity and freedom from humiliation, to make available to the state their full productive capacities, to secure the state against domestic strife and unrest which would menace its democratic institutions, to preserve the public safety, health, and general welfare, and to further the interest, rights, and privileges of individuals within the state."

Those who have worked with the Commission throughout the last five decades have committed themselves to meeting the goals of that mandate. And that dedication is reflected not just in the law books of the Commonwealth, but in communities throughout Kentucky.

It was Kentucky that was the first southern state to pass a civil rights act and the first in the Nation to enact a fair housing law. And each and every day, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights continues to fight to educate our citizens about how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

Every citizen of our Commonwealth can be proud of the legacy of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Commission for fifty years of dedication to the expansion of equal rights across our Commonwealth and honor their vision of a people united against discrimination and united for equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 990, Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as National Mentoring Month, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 1003, expressing support for the designation of January 10, 2010, through January 16, 2010, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING JOHN TOUPS' CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH CARE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Touns' contribution to health care in northern Virginia. He has recently stepped down after more than 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees at Inova Health System in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In 1986, John began his service as a trustee on the board of the Fairfax Hospital Association, which is now known as the Inova Health System Board of Trustees. He served as vice-chairman from 1999–2003, and then as chairman from 2004–2007. For the past two years, John served on the board as past chairman.

During his voluntary tenure on the Inova board, John led Inova through a merger with Alexandria Hospital in 1997 and then with Loudoun Hospital in 2005. He has helped to establish funding for other health care initiatives to benefit patients and their families, and has long supported Inova's philanthropic priorities, including the Life with Cancer program.

Along with his work on the Board of Trustees for Inova, John found the time to serve as president of various community organizations, including the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, the George Mason University Foundation, and the Northern Virginia Roundtable.

In his professional life, John founded a civil engineering firm which later merged with the Planning Research Corporation. He retired as president and CEO of PRC in 1987.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing John Touns and his significant contribution to the Inova Health System, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the entire northern Virginia community.

HONORING LINDA JOHNSON ON BEING NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Johnson on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Woman of the Year."

Ms. Johnson was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. She will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

A lifelong resident of Western Springs and the owner of Village True Value Hardware, Linda Johnson is a fixture of the community who is always there in her store helping customers. In 2005, Ms. Johnson started the "Glory Days" project, which enables students to deliver small American flags to each home in Western Springs every July 3rd.

Linda Johnson's many commitments make her a fixture in the community including serving as chair of the Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital Foundation and events chair of the Western Springs Business Association. She is a member of the Western Springs Rotary Club, Lyons Township High School Alumni Board, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, La Grange Area Business and Professional Women, and Earlham College Alumni Council. Ms. Johnson also served as president of the Western Springs Business Association and on the Village of Western Springs' Economic Development Commission.

Previously honored as "A Person of Distinction" in 2005 and a recipient of the State of Illinois Volunteerism Award in 2007, Linda Johnson will very deservedly being honored for her dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Linda Johnson for her outstanding service to her community and her recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Woman of the Year.

HONORING THE VITAMIN L PROJECT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vitamin L Project of Ithaca, New York on 20 years of service, and to commend the founders of this group, Jan and Janice Nigro, on their steadfast dedication to community service.

For two decades, the Vitamin L Project has taught young people throughout New York state the power of diversity and positive character development. In 1989, Jan and Janice conceptualized and launched the Project as an innovative model for teaching character education through the magic of song. It all began in Ithaca, New York when a teacher friend of Jan Nigro's asked him to write some songs for elementary-age children about the universal human values of diversity, love, truth, peace, and non-violence. This single request blossomed in 17 songs, and the Vitamin L transformative magic of character building was underway creating a library of uplifting and inspirational music.

Over time, the Vitamin L Chorus was established, which today includes approximately 80 young performers as well as a growing group of Vitamin L alumni. Jan's wife, Janice, serves as Vitamin L Project Director and works tirelessly to sustain the Project's mission through outreach to elementary schools, recruitment and training of youth singers, organizing concerts, and serving as mentor and coach to all Chorus members. Together, this husband-and-